

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Congressman Herger yesterday voted for H.R. 5631, the conference report on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, which the House passed by a vote of 394 to 22. The measure provides funding to prosecute the War on Terrorism, support our nation's military personnel, and research, develop, and procure weapons. Herger made the following comment after the House passed the bill:

"Our nation's men and women in uniform are prosecuting the War on Terrorism with tremendous skill, bravery, and honor," Herger stated. "It is not by coincidence that America has not suffered another attack at home since September 11, 2001. By staying on the offensive and aggressively fighting the War on Terrorism far from our shores, our service members are playing an essential role in protecting their fellow Americans.

"We must provide our armed forces every tool they need to defeat terrorists," continued Herger. "The defense appropriations bill provides funding for the War on Terrorism, as well as a 2.2% military pay raise, additional body armor, new 'jammers' to counter improvised explosive devices, critical weapons systems, and missile defense technology. It also provides over \$700 million in total funding for the Global Hawk, helping to ensure that this state-of-the-art spy plane, stationed at Beale Air Force Base in Northern California, continues its mission in the War on Terror."

Herger concluded, "This important measure helps ensure that our troops have the equipment and weapons they need to win their missions. I will continue to strongly support our troops as this global war continues."

The Senate is expected to pass H.R. 5631, and President Bush has indicated that he'll sign it into law. For more information on the bill, go to http://appropriations.house.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=PressReleases.Detail&PressRelease_id=646